



**COUNTY OF PLACER
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION**

JOSHUA P. HUNTSINGER
Agricultural Commissioner
Sealer of Weights & Measures

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION MEMBERS

Tony Aguilar	Larry Jordan
Patricia Beard	William Morebeck
James Brenner	John Nitta
Dan Macon	Stewart Perry
Wayne Vineyard	

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MINUTES

PLACER COUNTY AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION MEETING

APRIL 11, 2016

Members Present: Patricia Beard, James Brenner, Larry Jordan, Dan Macon, William Morebeck, John Nitta, Stewart Perry, Wayne Vineyard

Members Absent: Tony Aguilar

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- I. CALL TO ORDER** – 7:00 pm by Wayne Vineyard
 - II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR APRIL 11, 2016 AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MARCH 14, 2016.** Motion to approve: *Perry / Macon /MPUV*
 - III. PUBLIC COMMENT** - None
 - IV. NID APRIL 1 SNOW SURVEY RESULTS, WATER SUPPLY UPDATE** – Chip Close, NID
 - Supply currently at 133% of average, 92% of total capacity.
 - Bowman Lake at 123% of average.
 - While Northern CA reservoirs are 80%+ of capacity, San Joaquin and Southern CA still very low.
 - Governor extended declaration of drought to October 2016.
 - NID rescinded 2008-2015 declaration of drought.
 - State is holding public meeting regarding water and expectation of curtailments on April 20, 2016.
 - V ACTION ITEM**
RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING CENTENNIAL RESERVOIR PROJECT PROPOSAL – Rem Scherzinger, NID
 - Morebeck excuses himself prior to presentation.
 - Rem Scherzinger gives a presentation explaining reason for and details of the project.
 - Water Storage
 - Weather patterns have shifted 3 months ahead with the peak water-storage event occurring in March rather than June.
 - Water released this year could be captured in the future by this new reservoir.
 - Reservoir would be between Lake Rollins and Lake Combie and will serve 25% of Placer County, allowing Nevada County reservoirs to deliver more to Nevada County.

- New reservoir would be thin and narrow like Lake Clementine and would hold more than 60 acre-feet with buffer space for more if needed.
- EIR comments welcomed via cards, emails, website, etc.
- Benefits
 - Regional drought proofing – Enhance regional storage.
 - Environmental – Green energy, habitat improvement and expansion
 - Agricultural – NID water supplies most of Placer County agriculture.
 - Recreation – paddle boarding, recreation site, and trails
 - County safe conduit – firebreak
 - Bridge – four possible locations, working with both counties to determine site.
- Funding
 - Four funding streams: Prop 1 funds, Bonds, State Revolving loan fund and Private investments.
 - NID has history of paying for projects with hydroelectric money.
- Final points
 - Removal of sediment from Combie and Rollins lakes.
 - Regional Thinking is necessary – Share Water.

Questions followed regarding relationship of proposed reservoir to Lincoln water canal project – yes and no. Will proposed reservoir serve Lincoln – Lincoln is already served and has an allotment. Dam location would be West of Dogbar.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

- Public comments were against the proposal. Land loss, Bear River Campground would be submerged – the only campground with ADA access. Homeowners in the area feel ignored. No WACs or MACs held, loss of riparian habitat. Prefer waiting for Draft EIR in 1-2 months before deciding, consider raising Camp Far West or Rollins Lake.

Commissioners discussed questions and issues and determined they would wait for more information before considering any recommendation. Commissioner Beard suggested the issue be placed on the agenda again as soon as possible and more information is available.

VI PLACER COUNTY ASSESSOR: PERMANENT CROPS AND PROPERTY TAX – Rob Newburn, Placer County Assessor's Office

- Mr. Newburn gave a very detail PowerPoint presentation on property tax assessment of trees and vines including discovery and implementation

VII REPORTS

A. Agricultural Marketing Program – Josh Huntsinger

- PlacerGrown is starting a new series of articles highlighting next generation of Placer County farmers, tech innovation and land conservation.

- First planning meeting for Farm & Barn Tour.
- Farmers Market

B. Economic Development Board – Lyndell Grey

- Awards given last month.
- Lyndell requests input for Ag Businesses to acknowledge
- Meat Processing Plant continues to move forward thanks to Josh and Roger. Now looking at possibility for rendering
- Transportation needs in the county – considering tax initiative
 - More Public access
 - I-80 / Hwy 65 corridor takes 10 minutes to clear in medium traffic, PCTA expects that to increase to 30 minutes very soon

C. Livestock and Natural Resources Farm Advisor – Roger Ingram

- Roger gave a report on rainfall, forage, and upcoming UCCE classes and training opportunities.

D. Horticulture and Small Farms Advisor – Cindy Fake

- No report

E. Water Supply Update – Josh Huntsinger

- PCWA rescinded drought, returned to pre-drought allocations.

VIII. AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER'S REPORT – Josh Huntsinger

- Williamson Act Letter went out to everyone – well received, expect responses in writing.
- Medical Marijuana has completed 11 MACs and 2 Town Hall meeting. Councils have supported moving forward. Holding West Placer MAC this week. There may be some city involvement.
- CDFA Presentations regarding ACP – how to regulate leaf issue?
- Two inspector replacements in the Agriculture department: Ryan Fernandez and Kelsey Lewis.
- PNSSNS reduced (?) based on better usage. Regional Board tour of area and monitoring sites.
- Greater Lincoln Fire Safe Council struggling to reach quorum – asking for Ag rep from community.
- OES and Cal Fire to speak on coordinating wildlife and forage management.

VII. ADJOURNMENT – 9:52 p.m.

- Next meeting May 9, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.